



PATENT

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DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Peter Bernhardt
Serial No. : 10/720,313
Filing Date : November 24, 2003
For : BALL JOINT

Art Unit : 3679
Examiner : Not yet assigned
Attorney Docket : TRW(EHR) 6873

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. Applicant(s) make no admission that the documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed, or an English abstract, or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth on an attached sheet.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed
(one must be checked):

- (a) Within three months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) After the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
- 1) A certification is given below,
 - 2) Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in §1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or
 - 3) Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
- (d) After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.
- 1) Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) \$180, or
 - 2) Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

- (a) The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

- (b) The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.
5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
6. Concise Explanation (if needed):
- (1) Below is a Concise Statement of Relevance of enclosed non-English language document(s).

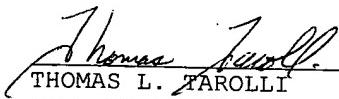
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,901,518

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

GB 973,995	In English
DE 101 57 935 A1	Corres. to U.S. Publication 2002/074743 (copy of abstract only).
DE 198 50 378 C1	See attached English abstract.
DE 199 57 940 A1	See attached English abstract.

Respectfully submitted,


THOMAS L. TAROLLI
Reg. No. 20,177
Customer No. 26, 294

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,
& TUMMINO L.L.P.
1111 Leader Building
526 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4070



Sheet _____ of _____

 FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 6-89)	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY DOCKET NO. TRW(EHR)6873	SERIAL NO. 10/720,313
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT: Peter Bernhardt et al	
<i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		FILING DATE: 11-24-03	GROUP: 3679

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	973995	11/64	GREAT BRITAIN				
	10157935	6/02	GERMANY				
	19850378	3/00	GERMANY				
	19957940	6/01	GERMANY				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.